Supply of arrack to the Government.

124. **Mr. A. L. Antony.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

1. whether the present Excise Superintendent had recommended to the Government to give the supply of arrack to the Government for the year 1104, under a private contract to the present supplier instead of calling for tenders; and if so what was the rate per gallon of arrack recommended by him;

2. whether the Superintendent was aware at that time of petitions of others requeating for the same;

3. whether the acting Superintendent of Excise had called for tenders for the same; how many tenders were received, and what is the rate which the Government had finally accepted ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—1. The Superintendent recommended that the contract be given to the present contractor.

The rates recommended were:—

		Rs.	as.	ps.	
(a)	Trichur Distillery	1	7	6	per gallon.
(b)	Ernakulam Warehouse	1	8	6	..
(c)	Depots of the Northern Taluks.	1	11	6	..
(d)	Depots of the Southern Taluks.	1	12	6	..

2. Yes.

3. The acting Superintendent did not call for tenders, but tenders were called for by the Diwan. Six tenders were received. The rate which the Government finally accepted was at Rs. 1—4—0 per gallon of 35° U. P. and 0—12—4 (proportionate) per gallon of 60° U. P.

Mr. A. L. Antony.—In answer to (1) it is said that the Superintendent recommended that the contract be given to the present contractor. Am I to understand that this was given as a private contract ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Quite so, without calling for tenders.

Mr. A. L. Antony.—Without calling for tenders means private contract.

President.—The contract was given to him.

Mr. A. L. Antony.—Here it is found that the contract is for the supply of arrack to Government.

President.—Where is it so stated ?

Mr. A. L. Antony.—In sub-division (2).

President.—That is according to your language.

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Mr. A. L. Antony.—It is stated that it is a contract to supply arrack to Government at Rs. 1—4—0.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is not correct and that is not the meaning.

President.—I suppose he did not want to correct you in regard to this answer. When the question was put in there was no supply to the Government.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—When I got the question I took it to be a usual contract.

Mr. A. L. Antony.—In the other case he took it in the proper sense, but in this he did not do so.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There is no supply of arrack to the Government by the contractor. The answer given is the proper answer.

President.—Strictly it may not be quite correct. But the facts are there.

Mr. A. L. Antony.—How many gallons of arrack were disposed of to the Warehouse by the contractor? Here I have to state that no straight answers to questions are given and that the Government are trying to evade giving correct answers.

President.—We cannot evade.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—That question has been answered already; there is no evading.

Mr. A. L. Antony.—No.

President.—You come with the same question. There is no attempt at all to evade answers.

125. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) what approximately is the total quantity of arrack at issued strength issued from the Distillery and Warehouse together per year for consumption in the State as seen from the last two years' figures;

(b) what was the rate at which the present running contract for the supply of arrack in the Distillery was recommended by the Superintendent to be given to the contractor;

(c) was this rate determined with reference to any tenders publicly called for; if not, why;

(d) were tenders subsequently called for; and if so, why and on whose requests and suggestions;

(e) what was the lowest rate tendered for and accepted and who was the lowest tenderer;

(f) was this lowest tenderer the same man to whom the contract was first recommended to be given?

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Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—

		1102.	1103.
(a)	From the Warehouse	29,254 gls. of 35° U. P.	30,136 gls. of 35° U. P.
	From the Trichur Distillery.	33,234 gls. of 35° U. P.	33,588 gls. of 35° U. P.
	Total .	62,488 gls. of 35° U. P.	63,724 gls. of 35° U. P.

(b) Vide answer to question No. 124 (1).

(c) No; because it was not then considered necessary.

(d) Yes ; Government considered it necessary.

(e) The lowest rate tendered for and accepted was Rs. 1—4—0 per gallon of 35° U. P. and Rs. 0—12—4 (proportionate rate) per gallon of 600 U. P. The lowest tenderer was Messrs. Fraser & Ross on behalf of the Nadar Estate.

(f) Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The recommendation rates were Rs. 1-7-6, Rs. 1-8-6, Rs. 1-11-6 and Rs. 1-12-6, and the accepted rate was Rs. 1-4-0. So there is an average difference of 4 as. per gallon. Considering the big loss that the Government have to incur, it will come nearly to Rs. 50,000.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—It is no loss to Government.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—By not calling for tenders, the loss to Government would come to Rs. 50,000. So I ask why no tenders were called for at the beginning without recommendation?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It was not considered necessary.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Why?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Because it was not considered necessary.

President.—Was there any calling for tenders in the previous year?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Then what was the reason for the change of mind of the Government so sharply?

President.—We thought the tender is more likely to be satisfactory.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Answer to sub-division (d) of the question is "Yes; Government considered it necessary." I want to know whether anybody recommended or suggested that.

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President.—I do not think. Nobody recommended. At my own instance tenders were called for.

Applications for licenses for Jaggery Tapping.

126. Mr. K. J. Antony.—Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the number of applications for tapping for jaggery received in the Excise Superintendent's Office in 1102 and 1103 but delayed for more than 3 months for their disposal ;

(b) will the Government be pleased also to state:—

i. whether the delay in the disposal of such applications does not involve misery and loss of livelihood to the poor applicants ;

ii. whether the Excise Superintendent has taken any disciplinary action in respect of the applications delayed for disposal ;

iii. if the answer to (ii) is in the affirmative, the nature and result of the action taken ;

iv. if the answer to (ii) is in the negative, why no such action was taken; and

(c) the caste to which the clerk of the Excise Superintendent's Office dealing with applications for jaggery tapping belongs ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—3,510 applications in 1102 and 3,738 applications in 1103 were received for jaggery tapping. The latter part of the question cannot be answered without a laborious examination of more than 7,000 applications. Government do not think it worthwhile to undertake the task. If specific instances are brought to notice, the matter will be enquired into.

(b) (i) to (iv). No answer is necessary in view of the reply to (a).

(c) Brahmin.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—May I know how long was he holding that post ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I cannot say how long. I saw him there when I took charge. He was there long before I came there. I cannot say how long. He must have been there for more than four years.

Purchase of Ganja.

127. Mr. K. J. Antony.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the names and designations of the officers of the Excise Department deputed in the years 1101, 1102, 1103 and 1104 to purchase and bring ganja to Ernakulam and the caste to which they belong ;

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